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the Chicago schools, and the rules and regulations of the Milwaukee public natatoriums. Finally, there is a brief but very serviceable index.

Dealing less than is usual with organization and finances, and more than other writers with methods, Professor Zueblin discusses such matters as the architecture and grouping of public buildings, the open-shelf system of public libraries, the progress of manual training in the public schools, etc. There is a description of the class excursions of the Washington schools, which must now, unhappily, be written in the past tense, or else perhaps in the future.

The discussion of municipal franchises is very brief, and might well be expanded. The author's preference for the indeterminate franchise seems to be rather academic, and in practice inconsistent with his own statement that a franchise should not last longer than one generation; for the indeterminate franchises are practically perpetual. Professor Zueblin is in favor of municipal ownership and operation, which he believes promotes instead of hindering private initiative, by setting free the capital and energy otherwise involved in undertakings of a routine character.

In spite of some evidence to the contrary, Professor Zueblin reaches the encouraging conclusion that there has been a most notable development during the past decade, not only in the extension of municipal functions, but also in their efficient performance.

MAX WEST.

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*La population.* By ALFRED DES CILLEULS. Paris: Victor Le-coffre, 1902. 12mo, pp. vii + 207.

IT has been said of ideas that they "come very slowly into being, and are also very slow to disappear." This is equally true of great masses of statistical data upon which certain social philosophers have come to depend. Writers cease to construct anew for themselves the statistical bases upon which their conclusions depend, and as their theorizing ramifies and develops the disposition to work at the foundation of their logic weakens. In this way some well-done statistical table which appears to lead incontrovertibly to a definite conclusion gets itself, as it were, fixed in the consciousness of economists and sociologists, and serves as a stop to first-hand examination of social conditions. Such a dead-locking and incumbering of social science with superannuated statistics has been particularly manifest in our efforts to come at some satisfactory understanding of population

movements during the nineteenth century. The gathering of crude statistics has been voluminous, but to a very great extent, this mass is undigested, if not indigestible.

Perhaps, therefore, in no field is the need greater for critical analysis and constructive recasting of statistical data than in that to which M. Cilleuls devotes his essay upon population—dedicated by the author, very properly to his father and mother, “*qui, sans fortune, ont mis au monde neuf enfants!*” When quality is regarded, our demographic statistics are sadly out of date, pitifully meager and common, while the problems of population are alive and pressing for intelligent handling. One cannot help feeling, however, that information of vital social consequence lies hidden away in the ponderous volumes of population statistics issuing every year from our official bureaus. It is the work of refinement and interpretation of this crude data that needs most to be done. Now, it can hardly be said that M. Cilleuls has achieved this arduous task. It does not appear that he has greatly advanced the science of population movements beyond the point to which it had been brought at the beginning of the last decade by such writers in France as Maurice Block and Emile Levasseur. In the handling of population data these past masters have few peers.

The scope of M. Cilleuls' work is indicated in the following list of topics, each of which is taken up by the author at some length: the institution of the family; celibacy, marriage, and conjugal fertility; physical, moral, economic, and social causes tending respectively to accelerate or to retard the natural increase of population, including a discussion of the hierarchy of social classes and of the effect of social institutions; stature, vigor, and masculinity; mortality; emigration and immigration; density of population.

There is a great deal of interesting information and comment in tables and text of M. Cilleuls' work, but one feels that had the author delayed publication for a few months he might have incorporated the population statistics of the last decade, which are now available, and so have performed the great service of bringing our knowledge of demographic phenomena up to date.

J. C.